



Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

August 24, 2006
6:30pm



Attendees

Dean Brown, Roger Caron, Diane Goemans, Ted Grintjes, John Holding, Christine Henning, Joe Makowski, Yvonne Makowski, Seyoum Mengesha, Linda Mielke, Michael Reba, Tom Rosandich, Bill Streeter, Bill Tucker, Keith Ulicki, Nancy Ulicki, Barbara Wesener

WisDOT Representatives

Ameera Ahmed, Helen Dixon, Percy Dorsey, Emlynn Grisar, Bob Gutierrez, Martha Love, Mike Paddock, Kimberly Stephenson, Brian Swenson

Introduction

Bob Gutierrez welcomed the attendees and gave a brief introduction to the project.

Presentation

Brian Swenson gave a presentation to the Committee that:

- ❖ Defined the purpose of the Community Advisory Committee
- ❖ Outlined the public involvement process
- ❖ Identified the needs and problem areas for the I94 North-South Corridor
- ❖ Detailed reconstruction alternatives under consideration

The full presentation is included in the committee binder. Members of the committee asked several questions regarding the project.

Seyoum Mengesha asked how the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Committee, Labor Committee, and Community Advisory Committee work together. Brian responded that each committee has a specific purpose and work with WisDOT on specific parts of the project. The TAC and Community Advisory Committee review the designs while the DBE and Labor Committees have specific roles for implementation.

Roger Caron asked whether WisDOT had reviewed the potential impacts of closing down sections of the expressway. He stressed that companies and businesses need to be made aware of potential closings three to six months before a project is underway. Brian gave the example of how the Get Around Guide, which was used for the Marquette Interchange Project in Milwaukee County, helped drivers anticipate potential closings. The Marquette Interchange Get Around Guide covers three to six months of the project openings and closings. Dean Brown, owner of Lamers Bus Lines, reiterated that the Get Around Guides helped his staff plan their routes.

Linda Mielke asked how the design of the interchange ramps in Racine and Kenosha had been developed. She specified the interchange ramp at Seven Mile Road. She stated that while Seven Mile Fair is currently located at that ramp, in the next twenty to thirty years, the fair may no longer exist at that location and the makeup of that location may look different. Brian answered that there were some basic modern designs that were selected for the interchanges, and then each interchange was studied individually for environmental issues, zoning, private property, businesses and potential economic development.

Linda also asked about the importance of aesthetics in designing the interchanges. To answer her question Bob responded by stating that in recent years, WisDOT has involved residents in planning the aesthetic elements in the design of WisDOT projects. He discussed a Menomonee Falls noise wall as an example.

Barbara Wesener asked whether WisDOT had considered pavement material options to reduce noise. Brian responded that the type of pavement had not been determined, and once the study was complete, the WisDOT would select pavement options based on the results of the study.

Ted Grintjes wanted to know whether the intersections would be completed before reconstruction would begin on the interchanges. Brian responded that was yet to be determined.

Group Discussions

The committee separated into groups to discuss the following three questions:

- 1) What must WisDOT do to ensure that the implementation of this project meets the needs of this community?
- 2) Fill in the blank, "As long as WisDOT does something about _____, I will consider the project positive and successful."
- 3) Besides mainstream media such as newspapers and nightly news, by what other means do you and other members of your community collect important public information.

The responses from the groups are as follows.

GROUP 1: Joe Makowski, Tom Rosandich, Nancy Ulicki, and Barbara Wesener

- 1) What must WisDOT do to ensure that the implementation of this project meets the needs of this community?
 - ❖ Stay on schedule
 - ❖ Create a real-time video of the construction
 - ❖ Specify a spokesperson
 - ❖ Maintain an interactive website
 - ❖ Keep the trucking industry informed
- 2) Fill in the blank, "As long as WisDOT does something about _____, I will consider the project positive and successful."
 - ❖ Lighting the corridor all the way to the state line
- 3) Besides mainstream media such as newspapers and nightly news, by what other means do you and other members of your community collect important public information.
 - ❖ Reader Boards
 - ❖ Billboards
 - ❖ Expand the State Fair booth

GROUP 2: Ted Grintjes, Yvonne Makowski, Bill Streeter, Bill Tucker

- 1) What must WisDOT do to ensure that the implementation of this project meets the needs of this community?
 - ❖ Design with areas of potential economic development in mind. Areas such as southern Milwaukee county, and northern Racine County may develop at a greater potential in the future.
 - ❖ Consider design that takes into account mass transit initiatives and the potential impact that mass transit projects will have on the North-South Corridor.
 - ❖ Expand the arterial roads that meet the freeways. If the arterial roads cannot take increased traffic, the ramps will experience congestion.
 - ❖ Create shoulders that are safe and large.
- 2) Fill in the blank, "As long as WisDOT does something about _____, I will consider the project positive and successful."
 - ❖ Design the Corridor in such a way that it should not have to be rebuilt for many years.
 - ❖ Aesthetics are important. The freeway should look good.
- 3) Besides mainstream media such as newspapers and nightly news, by what other means do you and other members of your community collect important public information.
 - ❖ Public Radio such as UWM or Gateway Technical College
 - ❖ Overhead signs

- ❖ Corporate newsletters for area companies

GROUP 3: Dean Brown, John Holding, Michael Reba, Seyoum Mengesha, Keith Ulicki

- 1) What must WisDOT do to ensure that the implementation of this project meets the needs of this community? / Fill in the blank, "As long as WisDOT does something about _____, I will consider the project positive and successful."
 - ❖ We are on the right track. Face-to-face contact works.
 - ❖ Continue to gather input from affected parties.
 - ❖ Maintain continuous two-way communication that explains **why** suggestions and input are or are not used.
 - ❖ Design the corridor so that the freeway is not level with houses and noise.
 - ❖ Manage surface street congestion
 - ❖ Reconstruct the frontage roads first
 - ❖ Cut scissor ramps
 - ❖ Improve merging on 894 West Bound from I94.
- 2) Besides mainstream media such as newspapers and nightly news, by what other means do you and other members of your community collect important public information.
 - ❖ Billboards
 - ❖ Prefer regular mail
 - ❖ Bus ads
 - ❖ Television
 - ❖ Public access channels
 - ❖ Neighborhood groups
 - ❖ Faith-based groups and worship locations
 - ❖ Tourist centers
 - ❖ State Businesses such as DMV, City Hall and Other public buildings
 - ❖ Grocery stores
 - ❖ Ticket holders/pay stubs

GROUP 4: Roger Caron, Diane Goemans, Christine Henning, Linda Mielke

- 1) What must WisDOT do to ensure that the implementation of this project meets the needs of this community?
 - ❖ Communication is key.
 - ❖ Listen to the communities, they know what is best.
 - i. Be proactive. Meet with the communities. Go out and seek information from the communities.
 - ii. Look at community development plans, such as development plans such as those that are in place for each county.
- 2) Fill in the blank, "As long as WisDOT does something about _____, I will consider the project positive and successful."
 - ❖ Work with established community.
 - ❖ Stay with the plan once a decision is made.
 - i. Stay with development plans.
 - ii. The community needs to be kept informed.
- 3) Besides mainstream media such as newspapers and nightly news, by what other means do you and other members of your community collect important public information.
 - ❖ Town hall meetings
 - ❖ Block meetings
 - ❖ Village newsletters could be part of community outreach methods
 - ❖ Send notices home with school children. Keep in mind that many Milwaukee students are bused from else where, so their home location is unknown.
 - ❖ Welcome centers
 - ❖ Weigh centers

- ❖ Truck stations
- ❖ Post offices
- ❖ Libraries
- ❖ Large businesses along the corridor
- ❖ Use tourism dollars to inform Illinois drivers by placing ads in Illinois newspapers.

Closing

Brian closed the meeting, by asking that committee members use the comment forms provided in the back of their binders to provide feedback from the communities, constituents and colleagues by the end of September. Ameerah will follow up with committee members to ensure that WisDOT receives all feedback.

Finally, the committee members agreed that the CATI Center in Racine was a convenient meeting location for them.

Submitted by: Ameerah Ahmed